

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 8 have been amended better to point out that which applicants regard as their invention and patentably to distinguish over the cited art. More particularly, both claims have been revised to exclude a fluorine atom as a R_3 moiety and to exclude an oxygen atom as an X_1 moiety. The claims otherwise remain unchanged.

The rejection of claims 2, 4 to 6, and 8 to 10 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Nakatsuka et al. '021, if applied to the claims as amended, is respectfully traversed.

OK The Examiner is thanked for pointing out various compounds containing a naphthalene core in the reference. Applicants, however, respectfully submit that the claims as amended patentably define thereover. More particularly, Nakatsuka et al. '021 shows in Tables 2 and 3 naphthalene derivative compounds wherein Z is COO or OCO. The reference also shows specific compounds wherein the X_1 comparable moiety is oxygen; see Nos. 228 to 230 on Table 2 (the portion bridging columns 21 and 22 above the structural formula). As noted above, the claims have been amended to exclude such embodiments. The rejection should be withdrawn.

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Applicants also respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 2, 4 to 6, and 8 to 10 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by EP '636, if applied to the claims as amended.

OK Again, the Examiner is thanked for directing applicants' attention to various compounds in the reference that are said to be embraced within the formula of the claims as filed. The reference shows naphthalene derivative compounds having a fluorine atom in the portion corresponding to R₃ of the instantly claimed formula. That aspect is no longer within the scope of the present claims and the rejection should be withdrawn as well.

The rejection of claims 11 to 22 under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Nakatsuka et al. '021 or EP '636 in view of Hanna et al. '510, if applied to the claims as amended, is also respectfully traversed. The secondary reference has been cited to show various devices including liquid crystal compounds having charge transport properties. The claims from which claims 11 to 22 depend are patentable for the reasons given above; likewise, claims 11 to 22 also patentably distinguish over the cited art.

The Examiner is thanked for acknowledging that certified copies of priority documents were filed in the parent application

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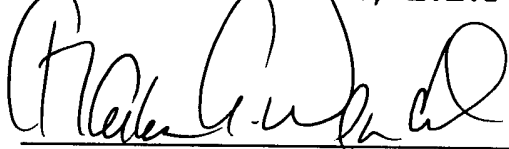
and for listing references filed with an Information Disclosure Statement.

In view of the foregoing revisions and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 4 to 6, and 8 to 22 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if additional changes are required prior to formal allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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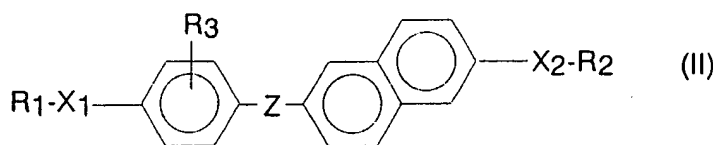
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MARK UP

(Amended)

2. A liquid crystalline compound represented by the following general formula (II):



wherein R_1 and R_2 each independently represent a straight-chain, branched or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon group having 1 to 22 carbon atoms and may be attached directly to the aromatic ring without through X_1 or X_2 ; R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a nitro group, [a fluorine

atom,] or a methyl group; X_1 [and] represents a sulfur

atom, or a $-CO-$, $-OCO-$, $-COO-$, $-N=CH-$, $-CONH-$, $-NH-$,

or $-CH_2-$ group; X_2 [each independently represent] represents

an oxygen

atom, a sulfur atom, or a $-CO-$, $-OCO-$, $-COO-$, $-N=CH-$, $-CONH-$, $-NH-$, $-NHCO-$, or $-CH_2-$ group; and Z represents a $[COO-, -OCO-]$ $-N=N-$, $-CH=N-$, $-CH_2S-$, $-CH=CH-$, or $-C\equiv C-$ group.

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(Amended)

8. The liquid crystalline compound according to claim 2, wherein R_3 represents a hydrogen[or fluorine]atom and X_1 and X_2 each independently represent [an oxygen atom or] a $-CH_2-$, $-CO-$, $-OCO-$, $-COO-$, or $-N=CH-$ group.

wherein X_2 may also be an oxygen atom